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to Zoölogy. Intended for the College and the Parlor. Elements of Ornithology. With Plates. 1 vol. 12mo. Boston. 1847.

History of the Town of Medford, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from its First Settlement in 1630 to the Present Time, 1855.

By Charles Brooks. 1 vol. 8vo. Boston. 1855.

*The Commissioners of the Public Library.*

Proceedings on the Occasion of Laying the Corner-Stone of the Public Library of the City of Boston. 1 vol. 8vo. Boston. 1855.

*S. L. Abbot, M. D.*

Report of the Board of Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital. Presented to the Corporation at their Annual Meeting, January 23, 1856. 8vo pamph. Boston. 1856.

*Royal Academy of Sciences, Stockholm.*

Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar-Tionde Årgången, 1853; Elfte Årgången, 1854. 2 vols. 8vo. Stockholm. 1854-55.

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**Four hundred and twenty-sixth meeting.**

April 8, 1856. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The Academy met at the house of the Hon. John C. Gray. The President in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter from Dr. J. P. Kirtland of Cleveland, Ohio, accepting Fellowship.

Mr. G. P. Bond presented a paper "On the Use of Equivalent Factors in the Method of Least Squares," which, on motion of Professor Lovering, was referred to the Committee of Publication.

Professor Eustis exhibited an apparatus illustrating a peculiar case of warped surfaces. The apparatus consisted of two planes at equal distances from each other, having upon their contiguous surfaces, and opposite to each other, figures of an ellipse. From the whole circumference of each of these ellipses cords were tightly drawn obliquely across to a corresponding but opposite point in the other. The effect, on looking through an aperture in the middle of the apparatus, was a very peculiar series of curves, resulting from the crossing of so many straight lines.

At the request of Professor Horsford, Dr. Charles T. Jackson stated that, in his recent examinations of Cochituate water, he had found the Crustacea, to which the impurity of that water in 1855 was attributed by some, quite numerous. A month since the Cyclops were as abundant as at any time, except when the water was first introduced into the city. They always contain more or less oil, of various colors. Dr. J. had collected a teaspoonful of them, and observed, on boiling, that they became of a bright orange-red color. He could perceive no disagreeable odor or taste to the oil; but when the mouth was rinsed with water containing it, it left a peculiar stinging sensation in the throat, resembling what Professor Horsford and himself had noticed in tasting the water of the lake *in situ*. The oil was always found in these Crustacea.

Dr. A. A. Gould remarked, that other observers had stated to him that the Crustacea are far less numerous this year than last, and contain much less oil. The number is found, as then, to vary very much at different times and places. He doubted if oil was found in them at all times. It was his impression, also, that it had been but recently noticed. In the figures and descriptions of them by European observers, he believed no delineation or mention of its existence occurred. On the authority of Professor Jeffries Wyman, who had been recently studying those found in the wells of the College yard, Cambridge, he stated that there was abundance of oil in the bodies of the specimens from that locality.

Dr. Jackson mentioned that one European observer had recorded its existence, namely, Kölliker.

In reply to a question of Professor Horsford, whether the animals in question ever feed on anything but vegetable food, Dr. Gould said that the Crustacea in general are known to be carnivorous. He could not speak positively with reference to the microscopic species.

Dr. Pickering said that no Crustacean had ever been known to feed on vegetable matter.

Professor Lovering exhibited and explained Wheatstone's photometer.

Dr. A. A. Gould made some statements concerning the supposed ejection of living animals from the human stomach, where they had been believed to have resided for some time, but which, from their structure and habits, could not have lived under such conditions. He mentioned several instances, — one that of a snake, supposed to have existed for months in a man's stomach, which on being opened was found to contain in its stomach another snake, of a different species, which it had swallowed ; all tending to confirm the probability that all such stories are palpable fictions, or the offspring of honest delusion.

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**Four hundred and twenty-seventh meeting.**

May 13, 1856. — MONTHLY MEETING.

The Academy met at the house of the Hon. Nathan Appleton. The President in the chair.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters from Rear-Admiral W. H. Smyth, acknowledging the donation of the Academy's Memoirs, and from Die Königlich Sächsische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, and the Lyceum of Natural History, New York, acknowledging the donation of the Proceedings of the Academy.

Referring to the statements concerning the Cochituate water at the preceding meeting, Dr. A. A. Hayes said, that, in a paper read by him last year, he had demonstrated that the impurity existing at that time was due to an animal origin, and he had seen no reason to change his view since.

Dr. John Bacon remarked, that he had noticed the oil-containing Crustacea during the past year, especially in the very cold months, when there was very little vegetable matter in the water. He had seen no reason to change his former opinion concerning them.

Dr. C. T. Jackson said, that, shortly after the Cochituate water was introduced into Boston, he had collected great numbers of the Crustacea, at a time when the water was very pure.